

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." . . . VING.

VOL. III.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1824.

NUM. 28.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

We are rejoiced to see that a spirit of inquiry, is every where leading to the establishment of Agricultural Societies; and that these, by judicious measures, are inspiring our Farmers and Planters universally with a zealous but generous desire to excel each other: we say generous desire, because of their commendable willingness to publish, for the good of all, the means which lead to individual success. Let those engaged in other pursuits of life, mark and imitate this noble example of disinterestedness. They too might associate and offer rewards to the pre-eminent skilful members of their own calling; and, for the advantage of society, let their proceedings likewise be published. We offer these suggestions, most particularly and respectfully, to those who are engaged in domestic manufactures. The manufacture of the finer linens and cottons, and the process of dyeing, especially woolen cloths, with beautifully perfect or fast colours, are among the many objects, which deserve honorary and substantial encouragement at their hands. It is not enough that they uplift their hands, and call upon Hercules for assistance; they should strive to help themselves, to rival, excel and aid each member of their vocation. To the advancement of objects so desirable to all, we would cheerfully devote a portion of our paper; nor can we conclude these remarks, without observing, that we regret, that whilst on the side of agriculturists, constant efforts have been made of late years, to improve their practice by the offer of rewards, and the publication of the means or road to success; we have not heard of any correspondent measures having been adopted by the manufacturers.

Agriculturists not only associate to reward each other's meritorious exertions and useful discoveries, but they have even gone beyond their own proper pursuit, and offered rewards for Manufactures—But manufacturers have associated to ask for Governmental aid, and have given honorary rewards to the able and distinguished advocates of their Petitions! It is time that their attention was directed to the mastery of their business, and high time that their bounty should be dispensed to those amongst them, whose genius or enterprise, may teach them to succeed by contrivances, at least as skilful as those used in Europe and Asia. We recently paid an hasty but very agreeable visit, to the celebrated Waltham Factory, near Boston—which has proclaimed its independence of governmental protection—and, however that acknowledged independence, and the superiority of its operations, may be ascribed to the advantages of large capital, it is not to be doubted that much more is to be attributed to the perfection of its machinery. To us it was matter of especial regret, that the American Arkwright, who superintends and contrivings it, was absent at the moment, as it would have been gratifying to see him develop the whole complication of an extensive machinery—moving with a precision, accuracy and delicate adaptation in all its parts, as if animated and propelled by an inherent principle of intelligence—We were informed that an English manufacturer had given a very large sum of money, for permission to pass through this superb establishment, with leave to take drawings of its parts—and retired, saying that a previous knowledge of what he had seen would have saved him ten times the sum. The Engraver was described to us as combining, like Mr. Jefferson, the simple and unaffected manners of a child, with the genius of the Philosopher—yet we did not learn that any of his valuable improvements—one of which was

said to have cost several days and nights of abstracted room study—had ever obtained for him any honorary notice or distinction whatever.

Ed. Am. Farm.

NEW YORK COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL FAIR,

For the exhibition, reward, and sale of ANIMALS, VEGETABLES, FRUIT-TREES,—and DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES; raised or made within the state. This Show and Fair will be held on the 23d and 24th of October coming, by the New-York County Agricultural Society, at Mount Vernon, four miles from the city, where the following premiums, in various pieces of silver plate, will be distributed, under their arrangements, to the successful competitors

No. 1. Animals.

1. For the best stud horse . . . \$50
2. For the best brood mare, taking into view blood, form, color, and action . . . 50
3. For the next best, do. do. . . 30
4. A discretionary premium to be awarded for the best horse, mare, or colt, that may be found on the ground for exhibition . . . 20
5. For the best bull, not less than one year old, to be kept at least one year within the state, after receiving a premium . . . 30
6. For the next best, do. do. . . 20
7. For the best cow, not less than three years old . . . 20
8. For the next best, do. do. . . 15
9. For the best pair of oxen, fitted for slaughter, regard being had to the mode and expense of fattening, to be accompanied by a satisfactory certificate of the same, . . . 40
10. For the next best, do. with the like conditions, . . . 30
11. For the next best, do. do. do. with the like conditions, . . . 20
12. For the next best, do. do. do. with the like conditions, . . . 15

N. B. The oxen must have been owned by the exhibitors, as early as the 1st day of July, instant.

13. For the best merino ram, taking into view size and fleece, . . . 10
14. For the next best, do. do. . . 5
15. For the best merino ewes, six in number, regard being had to size and fleece, . . . 15
16. For the next best, do. do. . . 10
17. For the best ram of an improved English or native breed, . . . 5
18. For the best ewes, six in number, of an improved English or native breed, . . . 10
19. For the best wethers, six in number, fitted for slaughter, . . . 10
20. For the best boar, not less than seven months old, to be kept within the state at least six months after receiving a premium, . . . 5
21. For the best sow and pigs, . . . 5

N. B. All animals intended for exhibition must be owned within, and by inhabitants of this state, and must be entered upon the books of the society, at least ten days prior to the first day of the cattle show; to which end, certificates of blood, keeping, &c. &c. must be lodged with the secretary of the society, at their public room, in the New-York institution,

or at Mount Vernon. No premium will be awarded without the above precaution; and to be entitled to a premium, in any case, the subject must be above mediocrity.

No. 2. Vegetables and Fruit Trees.

For vegetables raised within the county of New-York, viz—

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| For one half acre of carrots, . . . | \$20 |
| For one acre mangle wurtzle, . . . | 15 |
| For one quarter acre parsnips . . . | 15 |
| For one quarter acre blood beets, . . . | 10 |
| For one quarter acre white onions, . . . | 10 |
| For one quarter acre Savoy cabbage, . . . | 10 |
| For one quarter acre ruta бага, . . . | 10 |
| For one quarter acre summer cauliflower, . . . | 10 |
| For one quarter acre celery, . . . | 10 |
| For one quarter acre Cape Brocoli, . . . | 10 |

A premium of 20 dollars will be given to the person who shall raise, from one acre, the greatest quantity of summer or winter food, for milk cows, giving a description of the soil, kind and quality of the manure used, also the manner and expense of cultivation.

It is expressly understood by the Society, that no premium will be awarded, unless the vegetables are raised for the supply of the city markets, (and by a member of the society) with the exception of ruta бага and carrots; these being an object as much for feeding of stock as for table use.

All candidates for premiums must accompany the application with a written statement of the time of sowing, planting the seeds, manure, and cultivation.

For the best exhibition of fruit trees, set out within the county, since April 7, 1819.

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| Apple trees, not less than forty, . . . | \$10 |
| Peach trees, not less than twenty, . . . | 10 |
| Pium trees, not less than ten, . . . | 5 |
| Cherry trees, not less than ten, . . . | 5 |

N. B. Persons intending to apply for these premiums must give immediate notice, in writing, to the examining committee, that an examination may be had at different times during the season. The committee consist of Israel Dean, Thomas R. Smith, John P. Groshen.

No 3. Domestic Manufactures—made within the state.

1. For the best piece of superfine broad cloth, not less than 20 yards in length, nor less than 7-4 wide, . . . \$15
2. For the next best, do. do. . . 10
3. For the best piece of superfine cassimere, not less than twenty yards, 3-4 wide, . . . 15
4. For the next best, do. do. . . 10
5. For the best piece of black silk florentine, not less than 15 yards, made of American silk, . . . 10
6. For the best specimen of cotton sheeting, not less than two pieces, each 25 yards in length, and forty inches wide, . . . 10
7. For the best piece of linen shirting, not less than 25 yards, . . . 10
8. For the best six pair of boots, pegged or nailed, . . . 5
9. For the best six pair of men's shoes, made of calf skin and sewed, . . . 5

10. For the best six pair of wove worsted stockings, - 9
 11. For the best specimen of wove cotton stockings, - 5
 For the best specimen of woollen knit stockings, - 2½
 For the best do. worsted do. do. - 2½
 14. For the best of flannel, not less than twenty yards in length, 7-8 wide, - 10
 15. For the best yard wide carpeting, not less than 25 yards in length, - 10
 16. For the best 3-4 yard wide stair carpeting, twenty-five yards in length, - 10
 17. For the best pair of woollen blankets, not less than two and a half yards in length, and 8-4 wide, - 10
 18. For the best specimens of linen diaper, 5-8 wide, not less than twenty yards, - 10
 19. For the best, do. yard wide diaper for table linen, not less than twenty yards, - 10
 20. For the best specimen of sewing silk, not less than three pounds, - 5
 21. For the best, do. of linen thread, not less than four pounds, - 5
 22. For the best side of seal leather, - 5
 23. For the best specimen of calf skin leather, not less than six skins, - 5

Note.—The premiums for animals and domestic manufactures, are open to competition for the state at large. The society have reserved a portion of their funds for the awarding of discretionary premiums, for inventions in agriculture or manufactures, and for whatever may be exhibited worthy of patronage; but in no case will a premium be granted where the subject is not above mediocrity. No premium will be awarded for animals that have heretofore received prizes at the exhibition of this society.

No. IV. For the best milk dairy kept in the county, not less than twelve cows, \$15.—Applicants for this premium must give immediate notice to the secretary. They must also, on the 15th October next, furnish to him a full statement in writing of the number of cows, their breeds so far as can be ascertained, the mode of feeding, the quantity of milk obtained, and the quality as tested at different times during the season, when the food is changed.

By order of the Board of Managers,

CADWALLADER D. COLDEN, Pres.
 RICHARD N. HARISON, Rec. Sec'y.

New-York, July 4, 1821.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

FARMER'S SOCIETY

OF BARNWELL DISTRICT, S. C.

Art. 1. The name of this Society, shall be the Farmer's Society of Barnwell District.

Art. 2. Every member shall pay at the annual meeting in July, the sum of three dollars to the Treasurer.

Art. 3. The officers shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary.

Art. 4. It shall be the duty of the President, to preside at all meetings of the Society—to him, all motions are to be addressed, and he is to decide all Resolves of the same. In the absence of this officer, and of the Vice Presidents, the Society shall elect some member to officiate in their stead; and the presiding officers shall have a vote upon all the concerns of the Society; the president shall superintend the concerns of the Society—shall cause the by-laws to be carried into effect, and shall sign all certificates, granted by

the same. In the absence, death, or resignation of the President, the senior Vice President shall attend to all his duties.

Art. 5. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all receipts, and expenses of the Society, and shall not pay any money out of the funds of the same, but by an order, signed by the President, or officer, presiding in his place. He shall also keep a correct list of the members of the Society; and exhibit annually in October, a statement of the funds.

Art. 6. The Secretary shall read to the Society, all communications to the same, and make such communications as they direct: He shall preserve in a Book, such communications and letters, as they may either direct to be copied, or taken care of. The books of the Treasurer and Secretary, shall be open to the inspection of any member, at every meeting of the Society.

Art. 7. By-laws, and all other resolves of the Society, shall be noted in the transactions of each meeting, by the Secretary—and for the passage of all these, a majority of the members present, shall be requisite for their enactment.

Art. 8. No salary shall be allowed to any officer, or committee, for discharging their duties—neither shall any contributions, in any form, be exacted by the Society, from its members, excepting as is herein provided.

Art. 9. The Society shall meet at the Village of Barnwell, upon the fourth Mondays of July, October, and January, of each year. But the President can, at any time, call the Society together, by giving due notice at the Court House, and other public places in the District.

Art. 10. The promotion of the Agriculture of the District being a primary object with the Society, a committee of seven shall be appointed annually in July, to report, at the fall meeting, a list of such premiums, and under such regulations, as they may deem advisable for the Society to direct for the next year. At every fall meeting, the Society shall determine upon the same—it shall also be the duty of the committee, to make such communications, as they may deem calculated to advance the interests of the Society in any respect.

Art. 11. For the admission of members into this Society, two thirds of the members present must concur—and they may be proposed either by a member, or by letter, from the person desirous of joining the Society: honorary members may be elected at any stated meeting of the Society, and no pecuniary contributions are expected from them.

Art. 12. Every member (not including the honorary members) shall subscribe his name to these articles; and any member, wishing to withdraw from the society, must give notice to the Treasurer—and pay all arrears due.

Art. 13. At all meetings of the Society, any member can introduce a friend, to be present at the same—and members of all other agricultural associations, shall have the privilege of joining in any discussion, upon subjects connected with agriculture, which may take place during the meeting.

Art. 14. None but members of the Society shall be considered as candidates for any premiums; and any member may be expelled, at any stated meeting, upon the concurrence of two thirds of the members present—the vote, upon this question, and also for the admission of all members, must be by ballot.

Art. 15. A quorum, to transact the business of the Society, must consist of seven members, including the officers of the Society—and upon the adoption of the Constitution, the society shall proceed to the election of all the officers, and the standing committee, to serve until the annual meeting in July; when an election shall take place, for these situations for the ensuing year.

Art. 16. No change shall be made, in any of these articles of association; but, at a regular meeting, and all such proposed alterations, must be submitted at one meeting; and shall not be acted upon until the next regular meeting of the Society. In all cases, two thirds of the members present, shall concur in such alterations.

Proceedings of the Farmers Society of Barnwell District, South Carolina.

At a meeting of the subscribers for forming the Farmer's Society at Barnwell Court House, on the 6th of August, 1821,

The Committee, who had been previously appointed to draw up a set of rules, for the government of the society, reported a set of rules which were unanimously adopted. After which the following gentlemen were elected officers, to serve for the ensuing year:

Dr. John S. Bellinger, President,
 Rev. Darling Peebles, 1st Vice-President,
 Rev. H. D. Duncan, 2d Vice-President,
 Angus Patterson, esq. Treasurer—and
 Jennings O'Bannon, Secretary.

Resolved, That the following named gentlemen form the Committee under the 10th article of the Constitution: Dr. John S. Bellinger, William R. Bull, esq. Col. F. J. Hay, George Odom, esq. Willis J. Duncan, esq. Wm. Provost, esq. and Major M. Felder.

Resolved, That twelve dollars be appropriated for the purchase of books, for the use of the Secretary and Treasurer, and the first and second volumes of the American Farmer.

Resolved, That a copy of the Constitution of the Society, and the proceedings of this day, be transmitted to the Editor of the American Farmer for publication, through the President.

Resolved, That this meeting adjourn to the fourth Monday in October next.

JENNINGS O'BANNON, Sec'y,

August 6th, 1821.

In this number we commence copying a series of papers, headed—"SKETCHES ON PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE, BY JOSHUA TYSON." We have been edified by the perusal of them—and we believe they will be as gratifying to our readers. They are taken from a weekly journal, published in Philadelphia, by LITTLE & HENRY, in octavo form, at \$5 per year, entitled "THE SATURDAY MAGAZINE;" being a continuation of the National Recorder. It offers a suitable occasion to recommend that journal to the notice of the publick. It will be found to contain a great variety of interesting matter. The selections and original pieces, under the heads, *Science and Agriculture*, are manifestly well chosen and of useful character. The lighter articles are entertaining and of excellent moral tendency. We are the more bound to offer our humble testimony in behalf of the Saturday Magazine, because we have often drawn upon it for the benefit of our readers, and shall probably repeat our requisitions quite as often as Editors usually think consistent with "fair dealing"—and whilst on this subject we take the opportunity to offer the contents of the Farmer, to the free use of Editors of other works—being perfectly willing that they should have recourse to it, whenever they may think that any part of its contents may be made subservient to the amusement, or instruction of their patrons. Our original design and only hope, was to be useful—our aspirations are yet to the same end.

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AGRICULTURE.

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Sketches on Practical Agriculture.

BY JOSHUA TYSON.

Abington, February 22, 1821.

MR. JAMES WORTH,

My Dear Sir.—In compliance with your request, I will endeavour to give you a general outline of my opinion of, and my practice and experience in, those parts of agriculture that have come under my notice.

To the accomplishment of any business, nothing is more essential than to have a general plan laid down. Although agriculture is less susceptible of regular system than many of the mechanic arts, yet it is not so much so as many of our farmers believe. Economy and proportion are subjects that ought to be closely examined into, and unremitting industry used to carry them into effect.

Of plan and proportion, I shall endeavor to give you a general idea of what I mean. The farm on which I now reside contains about one hundred and five acres, independent of about sixty acres of woodland. This I have divided into ten parts, as nearly equal as circumstances will permit, with the addition of two lots for raising fruit and garden vegetables. Two parts are permanent meadow, or nearly so, the other eight, (say eighty acres) are arable, divided as follows: ten wheat and rye—ten oats—ten Indian corn—twenty timothy and clover, for mowing, and the remaining thirty pasture, for summer feeding cattle, &c. I mow generally from forty to sixty tons of hay. This hay, with the straw, corn fodder, and stalks, is sufficient to winter from twenty to twenty-five head of cattle, and eight or ten horses, my own and horses from the city at livery. The manure made from this stock, together with compost, is generally sufficient to manure well, from twelve to fifteen acres. Three good horses and a yoke of good oxen, are, with proper management, sufficient to perform all the work on a farm of this size. The horse is a noble and useful animal, but at the same time a very expensive one; and most farmers keep more than is necessary, hence a considerable source of loss. The cruel practice which most of the men we employ on our farms, of overloading, whipping and straining those animals, deserves much attention from the farmer. I know farmers, from suffering this kind of cruel misconduct, who lose one or two horses every year. This is a heavy deduction from the small profits of a common farm.

Of Raising Grain.—First, of Indian corn. Various modes of cultivating this crop have been recommended by different farmers, as being the best. My practice generally has been by breaking up the sod in the fall, winter, or early in the spring, as time and circumstances have best suited. I have found but little difference as to the productiveness of the crop, from either fall or spring ploughing. Fall or winter ploughing has this advantage, it forwards the spring farming, and in cold late springs, the grub or cut worm, and other insects, have not committed so great ravages. The last of April or beginning of May, I harrow the ground twice, with three horses, the teeth sharp, and a weight on the harrow, so as to completely pulverize the surface. Then commence double furrowing, at the distance of about four feet apart, leaving a small ridge or cone between them: then a single furrow across, very shallow, just so as to make a mark, at the distance of five feet. I prefer early planting, say from the first to the tenth of May: three or four grains to the hill is sufficient. Two or three weeks after the corn is up, commence harrowing over the row, raising the middle teeth so as to prevent the corn being torn up. A few days after this operation, should the grass and weeds be springing up, run the hoe harrow between the rows, which will completely clean it, pulverize the ground, and leave it in a fine situation for the growth of the corn. The last of June or beginning of July, perform the last ploughing, not very deep. After harvest, should the grass and weeds be springing up, run the one horse harrow through it. Nothing more until the corn is ripe enough to cut off and shock up. This cutting and shocking, is by some of our farmers, considered a troublesome and expensive job; but from the experience I have had, I think it much the best plan. The food it makes for cattle, and the quantity of matter for manure, very amply repays the additional trouble over the old fashioned way of topping and stripping. I have tried most of the various modes of raising corn, that have been recommended, and I think the one above described the best.

Of Oats.—This crop generally follows the corn. After ploughing the ground as early as is possible in the spring, I sow as early in April as the season will permit, about two bushels to the acre; but if the land is very good, I prefer two and a half bushels. I prefer cutting the oats before it is very ripe, and as soon as sufficiently dry, get it in, without rain if possible. Thus got in, without rain, the straw is very useful in feeding the out cattle. It is much better than second crop clover hay. I have raised excellent crops of oats sown just after turning down the sod.

Of Wheat.—Wheat I generally sow after the oats crop. I turn down the oats stubble as soon as practicable. A week or two after the ploughing, harrow the ground well. Previous to hauling out the compost and well rotted dung, I strike out the field into six or seven step lands, and plough three bouts of each land. On the ploughed part I hauled the compost, from twenty-five to thirty cart loads per acre, and from fifteen to twenty cart loads of well rotted dung.

When the manure is thus out, I plough out the middles of the lands, then spread the compost and dung as even as practicable. In the last week of September, or first of October, sow the wheat, about one and a half bushels to the acre: harrow the ground twice; first the same way it was ploughed, the second across. After the harrowing is finished, open all the furrows and make others if necessary, so as to drain off, after heavy rains or the thawing of snow, all the surplus water. I generally sow the ground as soon as I can with timothy seed, about three or four quarts to the acre.

Of Rye.—Rye grows best on a light sandy soil; but I have had excellent crops from low clayey ground. In such grounds it is a much surer crop than wheat. One bushel of good seed is sufficient per acre. The ground ought to be thrown into ridges, from six to eight feet in width, the furrows well opened, so as to drain off the surplus of the water. Water furrowing is a material point in low lands.

Of Buckwheat.—This is a very uncertain crop. It sometimes fails from drought; but most frequently from excessive hot weather and fogs, when it is in bloom, and from early frosts, before the grain is ripe. I have seldom got more than one good crop out of three. It is excellent for reclaiming wild land that is filled with noxious weeds and trash. I have succeeded best from the following mode of cultivation. Break up the ground in the month of May, harrow it well and lime it, say from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre: cross plough the ground about the middle of July, and sow about three pecks of seed per acre, if the ground is good: if not very good, one bushel will not be too much. Buckwheat is of rapid growth in good land, and branches out in proportion to the goodness of the soil. This is the reason why less seed is required in rich than poor land.

Of Barley.—I have not been much in the practice of raising this crop. My soil is rather of a clayey kind. It grows best in a fine light, dry, rich soil. It should be sown as early as possible in the spring, from one and a half to two bushels per acre. I have had it to yield from thirty to forty bushels per acre.

Of Raising Vegetables.—First of potatoes. In raising this crop, I have tried a variety of modes and seasons of planting. I have planted as early as the 15th of March, and as late as the 3d day of August, both of which were excellent crops. These are the two extremes of my early and late planting. I have planted at almost all times between those two, with various success. I have planted in what is called the right time of the moon, and the opposite. The best crop I ever had was planted in what the knowing ones called the wrong time of the moon. I have but little faith in those lunar notions. Experience induces me to prefer from the 10th to the 20th of May for planting. All depends upon tillage, seed, soil, manure and season. Good seed, light soil, well tilled and manured, and a reasonably moist season, never fails to produce a good crop. By good seed, I mean large, round, handsome potatoes, judiciously divided or cut, so as not to leave more than two or three eyes in each piece; those to be planted about eight or nine inches apart: with respect to manure,

twenty or twenty-five cart loads of dung, fresh from the stable or shed, and thirty bushels of lime per acre, carefully spread. The potatoes should be dropped in every second or third furrow, having respect to the width or narrowness of the plough. If the dung is long and strawy, it should be raked into the furrows where the potatoes are dropped. If the planting is under a fresh sod, the liming should be deferred until the tops are just coming through the ground, then harrow, and spread the lime, and then harrow again. When the potato tops are up four or five inches, they ought to be ploughed very shallow with a one horse plough, the share should be as sharp as a knife, so as to cut all the grass and weeds that may be springing up. I think a sod equal to a fallow, and some seasons much better. Last season I planted under the sod and in a fallow. The sod produced almost double the fallow crop. They were planted as near the same time as possible, and manured equally the same.

(To be continued.)

FARM STOCK.

Report made by a committee of the "Agricultural Society of Pendleton, S. Carolina.

READ NOVEMBER 12, 1818.

The Committee appointed upon "Farm Stock, beg leave now to report :

That this subject embraces a very important branch of husbandry and rural economy, and is very extensive when taken in all relations, must be obvious to all who have paid the smallest attention to agricultural pursuits. Your committee, believing that it was only intended by the society that they should lay before it such facts and observations as were calculated to shew the preference of one species of the same genus of domestic animals over another, so far as it respected the operations of husbandry, or the comforts and profits of the farmer, will confine their observations to such as are considered of the first importance, and endeavor to shew why the farmer should turn his attention to the raising and using one kind rather than another. The breeds of horses not being so distinct in this country as in some others, it is difficult to describe the race most valuable to the farmer as best suited to the business of agriculture. In some of the middle states, the large dray breed is used as best suited to their heavy market wagons; and in the eastern and all the southern states, a middle sized horse is preferred, on account of his not consuming so much food, his being able to endure much more fatigue, and perform more work in the same time. Your committee are of opinion, that, if horses are thought the most proper animal upon a farm, for the wagon, the plough, and the cart; those which spring from the common breed, and partaking a little of the blood-horse, are the best calculated to perform all the services of the farm horse, with the greatest ease and expedition, and with the least expense to the owner. But those which are raised upon the farm, beyond what are necessary for its use,

should, at any rate, be crossed with the best blood in the country, as such will not cost more. in the raising, than the coarsest, and will command a much greater price for the saddle or pleasure carriage. And if any particular breed of fine horses has shewn its decided superiority, in the southern states, for vigor of constitution, activity and strength, it is that which has descended from the Genius* stock, which has, from its make and qualities, become almost a distinct race.

It has long been a question, however, whether the horse or the ox should be preferred as a beast of the plough. It has been urged in favour of the ox, that he was capable of bearing great fatigue, was equally docile, lived nearly as long as the horse, subsisted upon less expensive food, and almost entirely without grain, and in the end was convertible into the most delicious food for man, and afforded valuable materials for his comfort and convenience. That if by accident he became lame or blind, still he would depreciate but little in his value, whereas the horse, under the same circumstances, would be worse than useless. To this it is answered, that although the horse is a more delicate and expensive animal, whose carcase is worth nothing, yet that he more than compensates for these qualities, by the expedition with which he performs his work, thereby enabling the farmer to save much time, by doing so much more in the same space, and "time is money." Although the ox does not require so much grain as the horse, yet he demands a greater quantity of provender or long forage, and as he is certainly less capable of bearing heat than the horse, it seems that he is only suited to an elevated and cool country, which affords good pasturage and meadows; and therefore, before the ox can be worked to great advantage in any country, grass and hay must be first attended to. For these reasons, where the ox was formerly the common beast of the plough, the horse is almost universally substituted. To find an animal uniting most of the good qualities of the horse and ox, with but few of the objections applicable to either, is certainly a great desideratum in agriculture. In the opinion of your committee, the mule is better calculated to answer the general purposes of the farm, than either the horse or the ox, as uniting the good properties of each with but few of the bad. Nothing but ignorance and prejudice could have kept the value of this useful animal so long from being known among us. But of what are ignorance and prejudice not capable! It is, however, very strange, that the most intelligent writers upon farm stock, appear, and acknowledge themselves to be ignorant of them as a beast of the plough, particularly as their great value has been long known in the south of Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. In old Spain, the stock, from which they descend, is as much attended to, in point of pedigree, as the finest horses in England—there, a pair of good mules will cost twice as much as a

* By reference to the Steed Book, it will appear that the imported horse which has given a name to this stock of horses, was Genius, and not Janus, as is commonly supposed.

pair of good horses, and in South America, a mule is considered worth many horses, and in some parts of our own state, one good mule is valued equal to two plough-horses. These facts are stated, to shew that we are not singular in thinking highly of mules, and for this preference it is thought there are reasons sufficient to convince every calculating mind. The mule is more easily raised than the horse, more able to bear heavy burthens equally strong for the draft, more patient, equally docile, will live twice or thrice as long, capable of enduring much more labor, will do as much work in the same time, and will not be more than one half the expense, as they will not eat more than one half the grain, will make use of long forage, which the delicacy of the horse will reject, and will bear the heat full as well, perhaps better. Besides all this, they are able to work sooner, and are only in their prime when the horse has become an useless expense by age. From the smallness of their foot, they may not answer so well as the horse in deep, miry roads, but from the excellence of the hoof, they will never require to be shod, except upon long journies over rocky roads.

That most useful and neglected animal the cow, has engaged the attention of your committee, and as this is believed, upon the whole, the most important stock for the farmer, much might be said upon this subject, but it is thought unnecessary, upon the present occasion, to say more than to express an opinion, as to the kind which is the best for this country, and the reasons for that opinion. That the stock which is mingled with what is here called the English breed, and in England the short-horned or Dutch breed, is better than the common stock of the country, it is believed, no one can doubt, who was present at the cattle show of this society, in September last, or who has, at all, attended to the improvement of this animal. There, several calves were exhibited, all of which, except one, partook in different degrees of this foreign breed of cattle. The one exhibited of the common breed, was certainly very large, and did great credit to its owner, and at the same time no one present could think that it was at all comparable to any one of the others. This was conclusive as to appearance, and if they are not more tender or difficult to keep than the common breed, they must be better. Those of the committee who have had the opportunity of judging from experience, upon this subject, think them not more difficult to keep; but on the contrary, think that they will look better, grow much larger, and take fat much sooner upon the same pasture. This observation relates to enclosed pastures, and they would not be understood to say, that this breed of cattle requires no more food than the common; but, on the contrary, they believe that cattle of all kinds require the quantity of their food to be in proportion to their size. Although this breed of cattle is thought more tender than others, in England, yet from its superior excellence, it has been increased in most parts of that country. Notwithstanding cows of this race give much more milk than those of the common, yet much of their excellence does not arise from this circumstance, as they

can only yield in proportion to the food which they consume. Their superiority arises almost entirely from their size, the smallness of their bone, in proportion to their flesh, their inclination to take fat earlier, and to make fat upon the best parts. This inclination to take fat earlier, and to make it upon the best parts, is attributed by the most experienced breeders to the beauty of their form and they are governed in their selection of stock to breed from, not so much by the size as by the smallness of the bone, and the beauty and symmetry of the form. It is much to be regretted, that this valuable animal, which contributes more largely to the comfortable subsistence of man than any other, is much neglected in our country, and left to bear every wind and rain which descends from heaven, without a shelter, and with no better allowance than straw or husks. If the farmer, instead of keeping a large stock of impoverished cattle, which tend to impoverish him, and which can yield nothing to his comfort or his profit, would keep fewer, which would enable him to keep them better, he would, for all his additional kindness and attention, receive ample returns, in a rich variety of delicious beef, milk, butter and cheese.

However valuable and important a small stock of sheep must be to every farmer, for food and clothing, yet an extensive flock is not so valuable as in some other countries, where the carcass is in great demand, and the fleece commands a ready sale. But it is very desirable that every one who keeps sheep, should have the kind most useful for him, and suitable to his local situation. Some years ago, it was thought that wool of the finest kind, would be an article of the first importance in this country, and many men in our country were merino mad. But the bubble has burst, and many have learned, by experience, that this was a delusion, and now know, that a flock of sheep larger than is necessary for domestic consumption, is a useless expense. But this delusion of the day has been of great importance to the country in causing much more attention to be bestowed upon this valuable domestic animal. It is believed that a mixture of the merino blood improves our native sheep both in the carcass and fleece. All crosses of this breed, make the stock retain its wool much better. We know but little of other breeds in this country; but perhaps if we could get the Bakewell or Dishly breed, which is so remarkable for its size and inclination to take fat, it would make a valuable acquisition to our farm stock.

As to hogs, poultry, &c. your committee having but little information, and fearing that they have already trespassed too long upon your patience, and said nothing which may afford a useful hint to any one, beg leave to be silent.

November, 12, 1818.

SEGARS AND ECONOMY.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Sir—Among the numerous small, fashionable articles, that might be mentioned as subjects of retrenchment, the above is one of peculiar note. Its use is not only very common, but very mischievous also.

It would certainly be a very great discom-

ture for a person to be instantly deprived of such a companion, because it would not only leave its physical action unsupplied, but its mechanical also: i. e. its stimulus, as well as its weight and distention. The Tongue would always be in quest of a relish which it never could find, and a man would feel as vacant about the mouth as if he had been suddenly deprived of a fore tooth.—Indeed, I fear some of the old smokers would have a round hole left, for a time, at the place where the segar was used to be introduced, which might be very inconvenient in windy weather.

To supply so great a defect, I would propose as a *fashion*, for this is the great secret in making changes, that each smoker would procure a stick of soft wood, of the size of a segar; and have it carved, and painted or stained to resemble one; and if it should be found impossible for our common painters to make a good likeness of fire, I would recommend a small piece of phosphoric wood to be attached to the end, which would give a very true appearance by night. This stick would wear away by degrees, and the hole in the lips lessening with it, no inconvenience would accrue, and the habit would be gradually broken. But though the stick would so happily supply the mechanical department, it would have no physical effect: to supply this, I should have been very much at a loss, but for one of my friends, a Doctor, who recommends that the end of the stick next the mouth, be rubbed occasionally with a bit of crude, sal-ammoniac. This hint was taken from one of the faculty at New-York, who invented a method of salivating his patients without mercury—he had a pair of zinc gag-plates, which he introduced into the patients mouth, and when they did not operate quickly, owing to the state of the weather, or the exsiccated state of the patients blood; he rubbed their tongues with a bit of sal ammoniac, and the patient became instantly salivated, and cured to the great discomfiture of the tardy Mercurial Doctors.

That segars are mischievous, there can be no doubt—First; to the purse. A free and liberal smoker, will sometimes use one hundred dollars worth per year;—a sum, that not one man in one thousand, has to spare, after paying off his yearly expenses; a sum, that, if preserved, would be sufficient to hire country houses for all the poor children in our large southern cities, that are annually attacked with cholera, and who die by the thousand, merely for the want of a change of air.*—And, 2dly; to the morals. For, independently of the expense, which is a breach of moral agency, being a bad use of the means which Providence has furnished, there are various ways by which smoking pollutes the pure moral spring. It dries the mouth and leads to drunkenness. It invites to idleness, especially round the table. It assists the intoxicating effects of liquor, and stupifies

* It is truly astonishing, that whilst asylums are opened for so many hopeless diseases, none have been projected for the infants of indigent parents—a few one story log houses on the hills near Baltimore, under proper regulations, would save ten lives a week, or two months in the year—a number greater than all our infirmaries put together can save in a year.

the finer feelings.† In the next place; it is inimical to the health of the system—frequently causing carious teeth and dyspepsia.—It also causes the human physiognomy to be perverted.—The lip and the lower jaw are pushed out to support the segar, whilst the neck and shoulders have to assume a position to counterbalance the jaw; man was made upright in figure, as well as morals; and let it be remembered that one of the characteristics of the human species, is a frontal bone and chin, on a perpendicular line. Suppose then any morbid defect should cause the forehead to recede, whilst the jaw was protruded, how beastly man would then appear.—Accidents sometimes become hereditary—i. e. a father, with a chin lengthened out an inch by smoking, begets a son with just such a chin; and this son feeling a hereditary disposition to smoke, embraces the practice, and lengthens out his chin another inch, whilst his neck and shoulders conform, and a pretty personage he becomes.

In this way deformity is increased. The daughters of smokers feeling a hereditary propensity to smoke, fall upon some means to satisfy the desire; if poor, they smoke with a pipe, ruin their teeth, spoil their breath, sallow their skin, and expectorate so much, that they appear in early age, as shrivelled as an apple that has lost its juices; and if rich—they are ashamed to smoke, and what then? under the pretence of cleaning their teeth, they rub on pounds of Scotch snuff, and keep at it for hours; till at length their beauty is gone, and their nerves shaken in a premature palsy; whilst the doctors are called upon to prescribe in vain; they being kept in ignorance of the true cause of the malady.‡ *Mark this! ye Mothers.*

A still more certainly bad effect in the use of segars, is to produce a cancerous ulcer on the part of the lip where it was introduced. The writer of this attended three operations for this disease, and every patient attributed the cause to the nitre in the segars.

In addition to the above list of evils, I will mention one of the most serious nature, that extends beyond the range of the smokers. This I shall elucidate by a positive fact. A carpenter undertook to build a house for me in Baltimore—when the floors were laid, I told him that such of his people as smoked segars, must retire under one of the chimneys, and there perform their smoking. This they objected to, assuring me that they never knew one instance of a segar taking fire even among the shavings. As I knew that the segars contained nitre and some phosphoric ingredients, I resolved to carry my point, and told them so, and, in order to convince them, I demanded the two segars they were then smoking. These I threw into the rubbish; in ten minutes one of them blazed out: the other remained quiet a while, but after opening a door, that burst into a flame also.

These two facts surprized them, and I gained my point without further opposition—I have now

† Burns always characterized his drinkers by the appellation *drouthy*—to which state segars greatly contribute.

‡ An instance lately occurred, where the patient alternated this bad habit, with the use of opium, which produced death, and the whole facts were kept from the faculty, till it was too late to remedy. It is far more frequent than is suspected.

only to ask the question--who among the smokers of segars can name the place and time, where he threw one half of the fiery stumps of his segars even for the last twelve hours? are not these the causes of our numerous fires in the cities? Cellars and cellar windows, with hay and straw, are always ready to receive the hundreds of fiery stumps thrown away carelessly by boys, from 7 years old and upwards, as well as by men engaged in conversation, smoking as they pass along the streets.

J. S. SKINNER, Esq.

S. V. S.

LUNAR INFLUENCES—upon Animals and Vegetation disputed.

"He that observeth the winds shall not sow,
And he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."

Ecclesiastes.

Among other prejudices established in the United States, and which sometimes appear in your paper, I know none more unreasonable than that which supposes the moon to exert a malignant influence upon the labour or industry of man—hence many of our countrymen kill their meat; plant and sow; and perhaps reap their harvests at what are called proper times of the moon, and avoid other times as carefully as if some great injury was to be apprehended.

Although I have frequently inquired of persons advocating "proper times" of the moon, how, or in what manner its effects were produced, I have never yet received any other answer, than—it is so; and that such and such consequences always follow.

For my part I have never seen any of the effects, either good or bad, that the moon is charged with—and am of opinion, that no one has made a fair experiment of such effects since those dark and ignorant times, when philosophy and astronomy were displaced by ignorance and astrology, who have maintained a broken empire even to our days. The time was (and is yet) in some countries, where eclipses, comets, and conjunctions of planets, would alarm the world with apprehensions of war, pestilence and calamity—and the truth of their evil influence is abundantly insisted upon, by many grave writers who lived a century ago. Human reason gradually has got rid of such unseasonable incumbrances in despite of all their pretended proofs—and left us at liberty to do what we please, whether Mars and Saturn be in conjunction—whether comets blaze, or eclipses darken; and it requires only a little more philosophy to get rid of the evil or good influence of the moon; which, like the prejudices just mentioned, belongs also to astrology.—The phenomena of the phases of the moon upon which such direful causes depend, are as follow: The moon revolves once a month round our earth, and, according to her position, is apparently more & more enlightened, in a like proportion, until we lose sight of her altogether; the explanation of the various appearances of the moon, during her monthly course, are sufficiently familiar; but it is not so well known, or remembered, that the moon's revolution, on

her axis, is precisely equal to her revolution in her orbit; and, therefore, that though the moon is a globular body—yet she constantly keeps the very same face, or half, presented to us—and that we are as ignorant of the appearance of the other half as we are of what is going on in the planet Herschell.

Having premised thus far, let us examine whence the supposed influence of the moon can be derived. If it proceeds from the substance or body of the moon, we constantly have the same quantity of influence exerted on us—whether the moon be new, full, or in her last quarter; for, as before observed, the very same face, or half of the moon, is always presented to us—and as the influence is equal at all times, if there be any, how can one time be more proper than another?

If this evil influence depends on the light that we perceive, or receive from the moon, how is it that the direct rays of the sun have no such influence? and that, when reflected from the moon, they are so injurious? This sounds like saying any thing warm injures more than when red-hot—or, that a little cold is more disagreeable than intense cold. But, in the proportion that the light from the moon increases, it also decreases; and, therefore this reflected light is equally beneficial or equally injurious—in the first as in the last quarter, in the second as in the third; and should be at its maximum at the full. But the advocates of lunar influence say, the good effect belongs to the increase, the evil to the decrease, which is inconsistent with their theory; therefore, Mr. Editor, there can be no such good or evil influence attributable to the phases of the moon; and farmers may kill their meats, and sow their grain at those times that are most convenient, without in the least minding the moon more than the fixed stars.

The influence of the moon on lunatics, and on the tides, are often quoted as proofs of the powers of that planet—and are wrongly twisted to support the fore-mentioned prejudice, as upon lunatics, the moon exerts no influence at all—I appeal to medical men and their writings for proof.

And the moon influences the tides in a manner very different from that ascribed to her by the believers in her good or evil influence—for they depend on her position in her orbit—and on her quantity of matter which attracts, and is attracted by our earth, exactly in proportion to their respective quantities of matter; this, with the added attraction of the sun, causes the tides—and if there are seas in the moon, our earth causes tides there as she does here.

A. K.

From the London Farmer's Journal of July 23d, 1821.

ON THE ORIGIN OF THE DISHLEY BREED OF SHEEP.

SIR,

Howland Street, July 17, 1821.

Having read in p. 223 of your last Journal, the letter of your respectable correspondent, Mr. Bart. Ridd, in which he says, "it is now well known to the most eminent breeders of the Dishley sheep, that they were a cross between the Lincolnshire and the Peak of Derbyshire breeds of sheep;" I am desirous of calling the attention of that gentleman, and the breeders

of Dishley sheep, to whom he alludes, to the facts which I have collected and published, in pages 89 to 96 of the third volume of my *Agricultural and Mineral Report on Derbyshire*; by which it appears, that the Peak-hundreds of Derbyshire possessed, at the period of Mr. Bakewell's early operation in rearing his peculiar breed, two distinct breeds of sheep; besides a third sort, a cross between them. The first was called the woodland or moorland sheep, peculiar almost to the elevated healthy and boggy moorlands in the north and north-west of the county (improperly now called woodland, since they have become almost destitute of wood) extending thence into Yorkshire and Cheshire, in which districts these sheep are still kept in great numbers: the second were called the old Limestone, Derbyshire limestone or Peak sheep, which were almost confined to the Limestone hills, stretching from near Ashburn to Buxton: and the third were a cross between these, and called the gritstone sheep: these last kind had little merit, and are, I believe, now quite extinct, and the second kind nearly so. I am desirous of learning, through your instructive pages, to which of the two first of these kinds of Peak it was, that Mr. Bakewell had recourse? I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant.

JOHN FAREY, Sen.

ON WHEELS.

SIR,

Wilts, June 20, 1821.

WITH the exception of a short, sensible, practical letter from J. C. dated Alconbury, in your No. 715 the merits of the different sorts of wheels, not appearing to me to have been discussed in a sufficiently clear manner in your columns, I am induced to offer my mite of information on this highly important subject, which so well deserves the attention of every man who uses any sort of wheeled carriage.

Is it not very remarkable, that this nation which has advanced so far before all others, in its machinery and its mechanical science, should be so backward in applying science and experiment to the most important, because the most numerous of all its machines, viz. its wheeled carriages? and is it not still more wonderful that, the strong and universal principle of self-interest should not have been able hitherto to overcome the delusions of ignorance and prejudice, which, always hostile to true economy, are in the present instance so incalculably expensive, by the great increase in the wear and tear of our carriages, and our roads, to say nothing of our cattle.

My attention has been more strongly attracted to this subject, by my having remarked, during a recent tour on the Continent, that the cylindrical or flat rimmed wheel is in universal use, whilst the conical or bevelled rim is altogether unknown, and that the loads drawn by any given number of horses are vastly greater than in England.

Near Brussels the coal wagons having cylindrical wheels with perfectly flat rims of from six to nine inches wide, are allowed to weigh more than ten tons English, and on level ground they are drawn usually by five or six horses, being allowed at the hills a reinforcement of two, three or four horses more, according to the degree of steepness. The road is paved, and of course the draught is somewhat lighter than on our roads; but perhaps this advantage is nearly counterbalanced by the striking fault of the extreme smallness of their front wheels, and by the less firm footing of their horses on the slippery surface of the pavement.

Now, granting that the Belgian horses are excellent in size, shape, and condition, let me ask our great carriers, and all others, who are blind enough to load heavily upon conical wheels, whether with their best horses, they are able to draw loads at all to be compared with those above mentioned? And if these gentlemen are forced to allow their own inferiority, let them point out any other sufficient cause than that of the form of their wheels, which, as all experiment has shewn, are contrary to mechanical principle, although by some fatality they are universally used.

* Note—not where the road is horizontal.—Ebrt

Allow me to conclude with a trifling feat, which afforded me much satisfaction when I witnessed it, and which may be useful to some of your plain unsentimental readers. By the road side, between Antwerp and Ghent, on a holiday, I saw a party of little peasant boys playing at a sort of bowls, but instead of being spherical, like our's, their bowls were so many conical wheels in miniature, their two diameters being about six and eight inches, and their breadth, or, to speak more clearly, their thickness about three or four inches. The skill of the players consisted, of course, in judging of the circles necessary to be described (by bodies incapable of moving in a strait line) in order to arrive at the mark. It was impossible to view this striking combination of rude materials with scientific principle, without making the humiliating remark, that on the very important subject of wheels the plough boys of Flanders were better informed than the great wagon masters of England. It will afford me real pleasure to learn that this story shall have induced any practical man to reflect on the absurdity of forcing forward, in strait lines, wheels so shaped as to have a natural tendency to move only in circles; and to those whose minds are disposed towards investigation, I beg to recommend the perusal of a very clear, satisfactory, and not expensive, "Essay on Wheeled Carriages, by Joseph Storrs Fry," who is himself a practical man, and writes from experience. I remain, Sir, your humble servant, and constant reader,

AN EX-FARMER.

Editorial Correspondence.

Extract—LIVE STOCK.

PATERSON, 24th Sept. 1821.

Although no longer a farmer, yet I still have the greatest desire for promoting agriculture, as the real foundation of national prosperity—that on which our manufactures and commerce must depend for ultimate and durable success.

We have, the summer past, formed an agricultural society in this county (Essex,) and shall have a stated annual meeting on the third Wednesday of October. When I removed from this place in 1776 to Rome, in the present county of Oneida, where I purchased a farm of upwards of 300 acres, I immediately set about establishing a grazing and stock farm. As I removed no stock with me, all was to be purchased; of course I bought only such as promised to be good breeders—and those of all kinds suitable for a large farm in the back country—viz: brood mares, cows—sheep and swine: as to the first I did not succeed; it was a losing business—but as to cattle, sheep and swine, my success fully answered my expectations—although I could at first procure, of neat cattle, only half breeds to improve the native stock of cows, in the purchase of which I had been very cautious and particular as to size and form. The first bull was a cross of a noble bull of the Dishley (Bakewell) breed, with a small pole (no horn) Virginia cow.—The Dishley bull had of course long strait horns—the calf which I procured had small crump horns, seemingly not fixed in his skull; in shape and form he was like the sire; in size like the dam; in colour like neither. Of his calves, some were pole like the dam; some crumpled horns, like himself; and others long horns, more or less like the Dishley breed—but all inclined to fat early, and generally quiet, orderly cattle. A few years, subsequently, I procured a full bred English bull calf, of a much larger size, & with larger bones than the Dishley, with which I crossed my former stock, and by that cross procured finer working oxen; yet not better calculated for the butcher. To give you some idea of the value of this breed and its subsequent crosses, a neighbor of mine had a cow from the small bull of the Dishley breed, from which he had a heifer calf that he kept; when the heifer was two years old, she had a heifer calf by the same bull—the same spring, but 4 weeks

earlier, the dam had also a heifer calf, by the same bull. They were the two handsomest calves I had ever seen—and I persuaded the owner, who was a mechanic, and not a farmer, [he only occupied four acres of choice meadow] to keep these calves, instead of killing them for *veal*. They never ran out, but were tied in a cool shed in the summer, and fed with fresh cut hay, and Indian meal; and through the winter with dry hay and Indian meal. The last week in April of the next year, the owner put them into a boat and carried them to *Schenectady*; thence by land [15 miles] to *Albany*, where he sold them to a butcher, at the rate of ten dollars per hundred pounds. The two weighed 1200 lbs; of course he received \$120 for his two calves, one being 13 months old, the other 12 months; which would have been the price of a middling pair of oxen. The next year he had his cow to my large bull, and her calf at a few days short of a year old, weighed, when killed and dressed, 725 pounds; that is the weight of a good ox.

When I left Rome, in the fall of 1810, I was inclined to have part of my young stock drove hither for a market. Amongst them were 5 steers, that were three years old the spring before—say three years and six months old when sold in the month of November to a butcher: they had never been fed with grain at any time; in summer good common pasture; in winter, well housed with plenty of hay—when killed they averaged 1300 lbs. each for the meat, hide and tallow not weighed, being given in by the terms of purchase. Now, in this part of the country, we think an ox that weighs 1000 lbs. (meat, hide and tallow) a very fine ox: I mean what is termed *grass fed* oxen. I am sure that 800 lbs. for the quarters only, would be more than an average of all the fat oxen, from 6 to 16 years old, slaughtered in this and the northern states. What a saving therefore would such an improved breed of neat cattle be to the whole farming interest of the United States!

My success in improving my breed of sheep was equally satisfactory: my ewes were selected from a flock of English fine wool sheep—the buck was 7-8 blood of Chancellor Livingston's flock; afterwards crossed with a full blood buck, of Col. Humphrey's imported Merino's, remarkable for the fineness of their fleeces, yet much smaller carcasses than Mr Livingston's, which were of the Rambouillet-French breed. I have a small flock of these yet; but all my stock of neat cattle, of the improved breed, are gone. Indeed the pasture lands of this village would not carry such stock; although sheep answer very well.

We have a very valuable breed of swine in this neighbourhood, and which is said to be a cross from English swine, with African or Chinese. They were introduced from the Spanish Main, or rather from the Dutch settlement in South America.

PETER COLT.

How highly it would conduce to the interests of agriculture, and the improvement of our live stock, if all farmers would take pains to select their breeding animals, and particularly notice, and make public the result of their experiments. Every farmer breeds more or less stock of various kinds; and it would be almost as easy to conduct it according to some sort of system and principle, as to leave them all to have indiscriminate intercourse, without even taking the trouble to make any selection, except to cull out the best or—slaughter. *Ed. Am. Farm.*

Beatson's New Husbandry.

The pamphlet republished by Messrs. Carey and Son, of Philadelphia, on this subject, is, no doubt, in many hands; and is well worthy the attention of our farmers; and especially of those who have the spirit to make experiments out of the beaten track; and to encounter prejudices. General Beatson has published a supplement to his first pamphlet, which is noticed in the following letter, published in the *British Farmer's Journal*, of July 30th, 1821. It is addressed to General Beatson; and shews the estimation in which the system is held. *R. P.*

Ackworth, Moor Top near Pontefract,
(Yorkshire) 14th June, 1821.

"SIR,

"Please to accept my warmest thanks for the copy of the supplement to your new system of cultivation. I have perused it with the greatest attention, and am happy to say, I have found a great deal of very valuable information, which I mean to profit by, in the manner, I have done by your former publication. I shall strictly attend to the additional directions, in every respect.

I have great pleasure in informing you, that the gentlemen and practical farmers in this part of the West Riding, are quite *above* your system. The man I employ to make the *Scarifiers*, has so many orders, that he cannot get them executed in time; by which means he gives great dissatisfaction; and some of my friends, from that eagerness to supply themselves and their friends, have taken the liberty, in my absence from home, to send off some of my *Scarifiers* to the East & North Riding of this county; and ordered new ones to be made, in lieu of my half worn out ones. Such has been their eagerness, after seeing the operation of the *Scarifier*; and what I have done agreeably to your new system. The present depressed state of agriculture, and the low price of produce, must make many converts to it.

I have some very fine looking crops of wheat upon tare and bean stubble, well scarified and pulverized after last harvest. The rubbish and sods arising from the land, were burnt, the ashes spread, and two bushels of wheat sown, per acre; and scarified twice, to the depth of five inches. No other implement of husbandry was used;—not even a harrow.

I have also burnt a considerable quantity of CLAY; and used the same as manure. The clay burnt with Coal-slack and Cinders, being much calcined, does not answer so well as the clay burnt or smoked with wood only. The latter I have used with good effect, both upon arable and grass land; and have given up the burning with coal-slack and cinders.

You shall hear from me again when my wheat crops approach the sickle."

I am, &c.

THOMAS GEE.

WHEELS FOR CARRIAGES.

A controversy has been for some time past, carried on in England on the subject of WHEEL CARRIAGES. It seems well worthy the attention of every one who uses any sort of such carriages. Pamphlets are written, and many discussions appear on the subject. Those who have been accustomed to use the conical wheel, which is the one common with us, oppose any innovation. But the advocates for the cylindrical or flat rimmed wheels are numerous; and bring forward both experiments and scientific arguments in favour of them. It is said, that, in Flanders, the cylindrical wheels are generally used for carriages of burthen; and that, with them, five horses will draw ten tons, on thin paved and level roads. For such burthens, however, auxiliary horses are employed at hills. The wheels are without Dish, broad, and perfectly flat. It is said that conical wheels have a tendency to move in a circle; and that it is plainly proved by experiments, that the draft, with such wheels, has not only to encounter the resistance of the weight to be moved forward; but also to overcome this circular tendency.

In Flanders, the game of Bowls is played with conical Bowls; and the skill is, what arch of a circle to describe with them? so as to arrive at the mark; whereas spherical bowls roll in straight lines. The Flemish bowl said to represent the conical and dished wheel; and it is sarcastically alleged, that every

* The Flemish bowls are about three or four inches thick; and the diameter of the outer circle, or base, is six to eight inches; the less or inner circle of the truncated cone, is always one to two inches shorter in diameter. The conical form gives it the like bias to a circular course, that loading on one side of a spherical bowl, produces for a similar purpose.

Flemish boy playing at bowls, "is better informed on the subject of wheels, than the great wagon masters of England." An essay on wheels, written by a Joseph Storrs Fry, is highly recommended by the cylindrical wheel advocates.

This subject is mentioned for the consideration of our scientific as well as practical citizens; to the end that if the cylindrical, or flat wheel, has advantages over that now in common use, it may have a fair experiment made;—to test its alleged superiority, if any it has.

R. P.

A day or two ago, I went to see our new flax machine. It promises to be more effective than any English one. It breaks both retted and unretted flax equally well. Some very practicable alterations will make it complete. It is calculated to break 500 pounds a day—A water or steam power would double its performances, whatever amount the present hand movement may produce.

Crow-Foot Grass.

LAUREL SPRING, (Geo.) August, 1821.

Inclosed I send you two heads of an indigenous grass; we call it Crow-Foot—it grows on our poor pine lands: after they have been brought into cultivation, with a very slight manuring, and for a summer or fall pasturage, is greatly superior to crab-grass, or any of the small grains. If you have none of it, and are desirous of experimenting with it, let me know, and you shall have of the seed.*

* Our friends may take it for granted, that we shall be happy to receive and distribute any thing in this way which may prove useful—much good may be done by this interchange of the productions of different soils, climates and countries. *Ed. Am. Far.*

For the American Farmer.

On Millet.

George Town, D. C. 1st Oct. 1821.

To JOHN S. SKINNER, Esq.

Dear Sir—I saw a communication in your last valuable paper, on the subject of Millet, which is well calculated to discourage the growth of this grain: and as I have been more fortunate than the gentleman in Baltimore county, I am induced to give the result of an experiment, which I made with Millet this season.—I had it sown about the middle of May, and the grass cut from the 10th to the 20th of August, perfectly ripe, a part of which was so fine, that I got a surveyor to measure 1 quarter of an acre of it, which I had cut and threshed out separately: this produced eight bushels and one peck of grain, and 7 cwt., 1 qr. 13 lbs. of Hay; and I doubt not that I shall increase the quantity next year, both in hay and grain.—I will observe that this part of my ground was free from blue and crab grass, and that the growth was very luxuriant, being in its green state remarkably succulent—it grew from 5 to 6 feet high, the heads generally very fine and full of grain, one of which was counted and had nearly seven thousand grains. The seed is of a rich golden color, about the size of a pin's head. The beauty of its growth is not rivaled, except by Indian corn, that great blessing.—Indeed it was considered a perfect spectacle by many who saw it, whilst ripening.

In another part of my ground, I sowed Millet on about two acres of land, a part of which is very sandy.—This did not succeed so well: there came up an unusual growth of the Crab and Fox tail grass, which choked the ground and hindered the growth of the Millet—on these two acres, it was not more than from 18 inches, to 3 and 4 feet high—the heads generally small, and consequently a less proportion of grain, but the hay I consider better—some of the hay was

* The reason of much misapprehension, is that different people cultivate different species of Millet, and some are not aware of the variety—we have seen at least six kinds, and have this year cultivated four, quite unlike each other. *Editor.*

put in the rack before my horses, with most excellent hay from clover and orchard grass mixed—they selected the Millet hay in preference. I am satisfied that the millet ought only to be sown on good land, free from the blue, the crab and the fox tail grasses.

In addition to my own experiment, I will observe that I sent to my respectable neighbor, the Rev. Mr. McLeroy, two quarts of the seed, which he informs me was sown on a lot of about one quarter of an acre, adjoining the college garden: that after threshing the grain, and cleaning it perfectly, by passing it several times through the fan—he had six bushels, weighing 55 pounds each, and one thousand pounds of excellent hay. This gentleman proposes, having some of his grain ground the coming week, and will make experiments with it, in various ways—the result of which I shall take great pleasure in making known to you.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

JOHN COX.

On Tuesday evening last, the *New-York Horticultural Society*, held their third anniversary at Fiora's Hotel.

The following are the officers of the Society, as elected at this meeting for the ensuing year, viz—

Thomas Storm, Esq. President; William Wilson, Vice-President; Peter Hattrick, Treasurer; Michael Floy, Secretary.—And the Standing Committee, as follows:—

John McNab, John McIntyre, Wm. Fairbairn, T. Pringle, William Curr and James Dick.

After the ordinary business of the society had been transacted, the members partook of an excellent dinner, where mirth and good humor prevailed.

Cholera Infantum, or Bowel Complaint in children.

If the child has acidity in the stomach, as is generally the case, a little cool chalk and water will correct it; and if it be simply owing to relaxation of the bowels from the heat of the weather, astringents ought to be employed.—The brown shell of the tamarind seed, carefully cut away from the kernel, is an excellent astringent: 5 grains of this reduced to powder, and 15 grains of chalk mixed, three or four times a day, is an admirable prescription, with one drop of laudanum—the whole mixed in a table spoon full of cold water. Distilled water refrigerated with ice, ought to be given very frequently in small quantities at a time.

When pain and straining takes place, it is obviously a different disease, approaching to dysentery, and requiring very different treatment.

In the bowel complaint of our summers, the practice of administering calomel, and other harsh purges, when the poor little patient is already purged and languid enough, must be improper. Gentle pukes must be better, and I am a strenuous advocate for cold water and country air.

Remedy for the Dysentery.

Take new churned fresh butter, melt it over a hot fire, and skim off the curdy part, give two spoonfulls of the clarified remainder, two or three times a day: it seldom fails of effecting a cure.

TO PRESERVE CORN.

Fields of Indian corn, bitten by the frost, ought to be immediately stripped of the husks, to save the corn from rotting. The ears will now be found sealed up, and extremely wet; let the husks be cut with a knife lengthwise of the ear, and it will save much labour in stripping down the husks.

Cure for Burns and Scalds.

Apply a plaster compounded of Burgundy Pitch, bees wax, and a little oil; it will afford almost immediate relief from pain. Let it remain on some days and the cure will be effected. I allow one fourth wax, add sweet oil, or other oil, lard, or fresh butter to it, to reduce it to a consistency not so soft as to melt with the warmth of the flesh, nor so hard as to irritate.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1821.

PRICES CURRENT.

Flour from the wagons, \$6 12½—Whiskey from d 27 cts. exclusive of bbl.—Wheat, white, \$1 15 to 1 25—Red, do. \$1 10 a \$1 16—Corn, 53 a 54 cents—Rye, 60 cents.—Oats, 39 cents—Barley, 60 a 65 cts.—Hay, pr ton \$12 a \$14—Straw do. \$8—Live Cattle, \$5 a 6 50—Codfish, per quintal, wholesale, \$3, retail 3 50 a \$4—N. E. Beans pr bushel \$1 12½—do. Peas, 75 cts—Prime Beef, \$9—Prime Pork, \$10 a 11—Mess, \$15—Plaster in stone \$6 pr ton—do, ground, \$1 37½ pr barrel, 33 cts. per bushel, \$8 per ton—American White Lead, \$12 50—Ground do. 13 a 14—Linseed Oil, 75 cents—Feathers, 40 a 45 cents—Shad, new, \$6—Herrings, \$2 a \$2 25, declining—Fine Salt, 45 cents per bushel—Ground Alum do. 55 a 60—St Ubes, 60—Cadiz, 50 a 55—Turk's Island, 75—Beef, prime ps. 8 a 10 cts—Hams, 10 a 12 cts—Middlings, 10 cts—Butter, 25 a 37½ cents—Eggs, 12½ cts. per dozen—Cheese, 8 a 10 cts per pound.

NORTH-CAROLINA STAPLES.—Tar \$1 75, cargo price, plenty—Turpentine, soft, \$1 75 a 1 87 do—Hard, \$1 25 a 1 37—Spirits Turpentine, 30 cents—Varnish, nominally, 25 cents, no sales—Rosin, \$1 25, nominally, no demand—Pitch scarce, \$2 25—Cotton, upland, 15 a 18 cents—Louisiana, 16 a 20—Alabama, 14 a 16 cents.

MARYLAND TOBACCO—Fine yellow, none—fine cinnamon, none—Good red, \$8 to 12—common do, \$5 to 8—Inferior, \$4 to 4 50—seconds, from \$2 to 8—Actual sales, 5 bbls from Benedict, first, \$12; seconds, \$4—3 from Calvert, first, \$8; seconds, 48—8 bbls. Wagon, from Frederick county, first, \$7 50; seconds, \$3 50.

Kentucky, \$5 a 6—Virginia, \$5 a 7. sales.

TO FARMERS.

A single young Man, lately arrived in this country from one of the first agricultural counties in England, wishes to engage as an OVERSEER, or Conductor of a FARM in the state of Maryland, or any adjoining state—he possesses a perfect knowledge of the cultivation of land, the raising and feeding of stock, improving the breed of all kinds of domestic animals, and training such of them as are destined for the various purposes of husbandry. His terms will be moderate, and a respectable reference given as to his character and capability. A line addressed to A. B. and left at this office, will meet prompt attention. October

PUBLISHED BY JOHN S. SKINNER.